

Editorial

Your Voting Privilege: A Priceless Gem

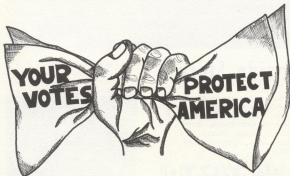
Through the years men have died for it, abandoned old traditions for it, dreamed of it, feared it; women have marched for it; youngsters have yearned for it and others seek to control it.

It is your vote!

For some BENNINGTON men this will be the first year to exercise their privilege of voting, while others have had the privilege but have failed to utilize it. Some say, "Why bother, my vote won't make any difference? What if I should be on the losing side? What good would my vote be then?"

Your vote is a priceless heritage that only a few of the world's millions have an opportunity to exercise. Even in the United States, only the rich land holders were allowed to vote in the late 18th century. However, as the years passed and the country became more interested and knowledgeable about politics; the poor, the woman and the Negro were allowed to vote. Today, politicians are stressing the fact that the voting age should be reduced to an unprecedented 18.

Even if your vote is cast with the minority, it still has an effect on how our country will be run. Your vote will show the winning candidate what kind of a job he is faced with in dealing with a citizenry which may not be 100% behind his every move.



This year, while BENNINGTON is on station in the Tonkin Gulf, voting may seem too much to bother with; not so. BENN has made it easy for her men to exercise this great privilege and responsibility. The answers to all questions concerning absentee voting are in the Legal Office, where the Legal Officer, ENS Louck or one of his yeomen are prepared to guide you through absentee voting procedures.

Most States, according to the booklet, "Voting Information '68", want the application for an absentee ballot approximately 60 days prior to the election. Keeping this in mind, drop by the Legal Office around the last of August or the first of September. The form you must use, as a member of the armed forces, is on hand, ready for you to fill out and send to your voting precinct.

March Man of Month



Boatswain's Mate Second Class Curtis Pritchett of Second Division has been chosen as BENNINGTON's "Man of the Month" for March. With the honor comes a \$25 U.S. Savings Bond, a 48-hour liberty to be taken at a time of his choosing, head of the chow line privileges for a month, and a letter of commendation for his service record.

When asked how he feels about the selection Pritchett said "I feel it is quite an honor, and I didn't think it would be me."

Pritchett enlisted in the Navy in September 1961. After basic training in San Diego, Pritchett was stationed aboard the USS KEARSARGE (CVS-33) from December 1963 until he reported aboard BENNINGTON in December 1967.

When asked about his Naval Career, Pritchett replied "I like the Navy very much, but I don't like being separated from my family."

Pritchett is 1961 graduate of Jeff Davis High School at Hazlehurst, Georgia. While in school Pritchett's activities were basketball, baseball, football, and track.

Pritchett and his wife, the former Vickie Bryant of Hazlehurst, Georgia reside in Long Beach, California, with their 1½-year-old daughter Pamela Jane.